

Application No. 09/728,443
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments made to the claims, and in view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

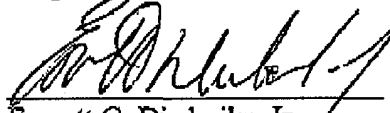
Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for reconsidering the rejection made to the claims after considering the Appeal Brief filed in this application. At present, all the method claims in the application have been allowed, while the product-by-process and product claims have been rejected. Although the Applicant does not agree with, or actually understand, the positions taken by the Examiner in rejecting the product claims in this case, particularly given the manner in which the majority of the product claims track the limitations in the method claims, e.g., see claim 1 verses claim 52, the Applicant has elected to cancel the rejected claims at this time in order to further the prosecution in this application which has been pending for almost three years. However, it is respectfully submitted that claim 51 was incorrectly indicated to be rejected as this claim represents a method claim. Therefore, the Examiner will note that claim 51 has been retained in the application. Of course, the Applicant reserves all rights to file a continuation covering the canceled product claims in this case.

Based on the cancellation of all the product and product-by-process claims present in this application, and given the indication of allowability of the method claims in the outstanding Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment/response should place the application in clear condition of allowance.

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Therefore, allowance of the application and passage of the same to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of this application, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 33,323

Date: September 30, 2003
DIEDERIKS & WHITELAW, PLC
12471 Dillingham Square, #301
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Tel: (703) 583-8300
Fax: (703) 583-8301

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